[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

But before actually launching on such an undertaking, they would be glad to know the sense of the House in the matter; and with a view to bring the subject within the scope of the deliberations of the House, a token grant of Rs. 10,000 is included in the Budget. There is also provision in the Industries Budget for the proper administration of the recently enacted Labour Laws *viz.*, the Factories Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, Trade Unions Act and the Trade Disputes Act.

23. *Co-operative Department and Uplift of Backward Communities.* Besides the allotment for the grant of the usual subsidies to non-Governmental Co-operative Organisations like the Supervising Unions and Co-operative Conferences, an enhanced provision has been made for ameliorative measures to help the backward communities.

24. It has always been the avowed policy of Government to render all possible help to the backward communities in their struggle for advancement in diverse directions, social economic and material. Free registry of lands, educational concessions, grants to Harijan hostels, promotion of cottage industries, construction of dwelling houses in selected areas; these are but a few of the various activities which Government have undertaken in pursuance of their programme of ameliorative measures for the uplift of backward classes. A Harijan Colony has been established in Kurichi with accommodation for 40 families. Harijan hostels are liberally subsidised by Government. About 40 Harijans are being fed and accommodated in the Sri Chitra Hostel, 25 Harijan girls in the Mahilamandiram are being supported by Government at a cost of Rs 4 per pupil. About Rs 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 are being spent for the free supply of text books to Harijan pupils in the 3rd and 4th classes in primary schools. The total expenditure, direct and indirect, on these communities is estimated at Rs 2 lakhs.

25. *Medical and Public Health.* The House will, I believe, be interested to note that in order to obviate the difficulties and inconveniences arising from the lack of trained male nurses in the Hospitals of the State, the opening of a special class for the training of male nurses has been arranged for. Provision has also been made for the usual improvements to and additional staff for the medical institutions of the State. In particular, I would like to inform the House, that the premier medical institution of the State, the General Hospital at Trivandrum, has been well equipped for Radium treatment of cancer under an officer specially trained in the work, an arrangement which exists only in very few hospitals in South India.

The frequent occurrence of Malaria in an almost epidemic form in some parts of the country has, of late, been a menace to public health and consequently a source of great anxiety to the Government. One of the District Health Officers of the State, was therefore deputed for practical training in Malariology in the various malarial centres of the Empire including Ceylon. He has returned and will formulate

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